

GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational Society, wholly altruistic, incorporated as a non-commercial institution for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion. General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.)

Contents for Week of November 16, 1942. Vol. XXI. No. 19.

1. Rain Hampers Both Sides in New Guinea Battles
 2. Old Paint Brushes Stay on Job as Bristle Imports Stop
 3. Mountainous Albania a Reluctant Aid to the Axis
 4. Extra Foreign Rights in China Built Colorful Cities
 5. Santa Elena Peninsula in Ecuador's Oil Area, New U. S. Base
-



U. S. Navy

SHANGHAI SHOWED THAT FOOD MEANT FELLOWSHIP IN ANY LANGUAGE

This American sailor visiting in Shanghai, photographed before Japanese occupation of China's coastal cities, learns from a skillful Chinese how to hold his chopsticks to eat the rice, bamboo shoots, and chicken in bowls on the table. Before the war, the U. S. kept detachments of the U. S. Navy and Marines stationed in China. Possibly the most famous were the "Horse Marines" guarding the Legation Quarter in Peiping, where a dozen embassies and legations were sheltered in spite of the fact that Peiping was never officially added to the list of cities where foreigners might live in China. All Americans were under the jurisdiction of a U. S. court in Shanghai instead of Chinese courts, because of the extraterritoriality rights which the U. S. is now renouncing (Bulletin No. 4).

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Rain Hampers Both Sides in New Guinea Battles

IN NOVEMBER a new and impartial adversary appears on the battlefield in New Guinea, hostile to both Axis and United Nations forces fighting there. Australian and Japanese troops hacking their way through the tree-tight jungles of the tropical island now face the steaming and seemingly never-ending rains that travel with trade winds and monsoons.

Dinosaur-shaped New Guinea stretches its head northwest almost to the Equator; its eye looks toward the southeast coast of Asia and its tail, 1,500 miles away, curves toward Australia's northeast tip. Influenced by the weather of its continental neighbors, it is a land of climatic contradictions.

Snow-Capped Mountains above Steaming Jungles

Its low grasslands are often temporarily buried in the ooze of tropical swamps. Out of this tropical oven, with its steaming juices rising in clouds, mountain peaks reach up to well above 16,000 feet (Carstens Toppen, 16,404 feet), frequently wearing cold white hats of snow. Rainfall in the mountains, where peaks graze the moisture-carrying clouds, is almost double that on the sea-level lands.

While most of the island drips, parched Port Moresby, on the under side and near the end of the "tail," is smothered in rolling clouds of dust. This is the driest spot on the island. Rainfall frequently drops to below 50 inches a year—about the same as the average fall in New York—while Kikori, only 250 miles westward around the coast, is flooded with a 230-inch fall.

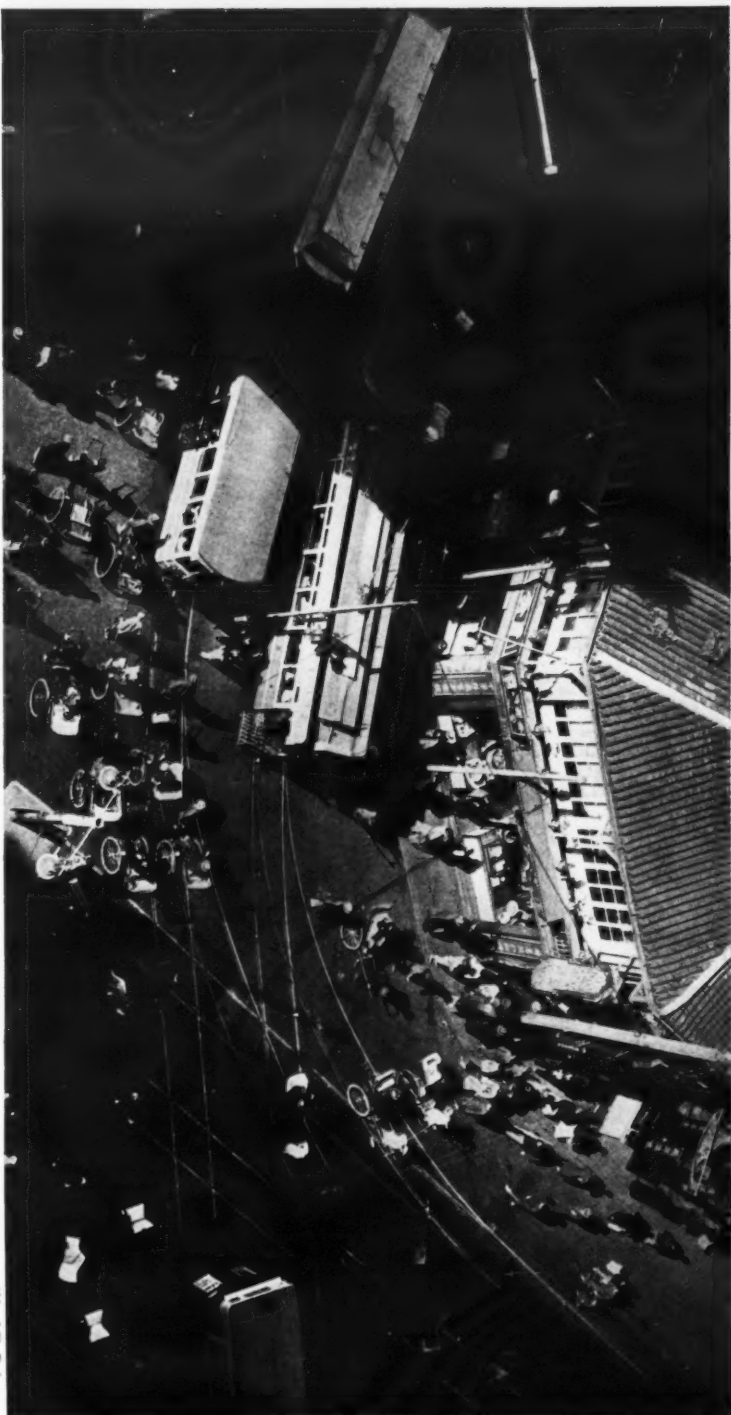
The weather in New Guinea depends a great deal upon the direction of the monsoon and whether that monsoon is the "good" or the "bad"—the "dry" or the "wet". The dry monsoon, which blows from the east and southeast, passes over the dry lands of Australia and travels over very little water before it strikes New Guinea. Its moisture content is low. It begins generally in May, reaches a peak in August, and tapers off in time for the "wet" northwest monsoon to take over late in November.

Natives Believe Storms Caused by Cutting Cucumber

"Dry," however, when applied to this southeast wind, is a misnomer as far as Kikori and the north part of Huon Gulf are concerned. Most of Kikori's 230 inches of rain falls in the months from May to November, while the southeast wind holds sway. On the north side of Huon Gulf (in the vicinity of Japanese-held Lae) the wind strikes the mountains at nearly right angles and rainfalls are almost torrential. Most of the 250 inches of rain that falls during the year in this section falls while the southeast winds are blowing.

The northwest monsoon is the "bad" monsoon. It brings the stifling, steaming, breathless days. Humidity hangs like a leaden weight. Downpours turn the ground into ankle-deep bogs. Trees lashed by the fiery tongue of lightning appear to explode, and splinters fly in all directions. Full-grown trees, uprooted, topple into the rain-mad rivers and are carried away by the whirling currents.

Natives in certain parts of New Guinea are nervous during thunder storms. According to native legend there are two kinds of rain—that resulting from a natural overspilling of the "rivers of the sky" and that sent by angered spirits. While thunder rumbles and lightning streaks the sky, an excited native may scurry



Alfred T. Palmer

OLD-FASHIONED RICKSHAWS HELPED CREATE UP-TO-DATE TRAFFIC JAMS AT SHANGHAI'S BUSY CORNERS

The largest foreign community in China, prior to Japanese occupation, was the International Settlement in the pioneer treaty port of Shanghai, which mushroomed from an insignificant fishing village to one of the ten largest cities of the globe. Land there was so dear that it was bargained for by the single square foot. At this busy intersection of Nanking and Chekiang Roads, street cars and a few automobiles often became entangled with bicycles and a sizable fraction of the city's 40,000 rickshaws. The traffic cops were bearded and turbaned Sikh policemen, well-trained Hindus brought from India by the British. The U. S. held no "concessions" or exclusive residential areas for its nationals in China, but shared those of other foreign powers. Before the war, almost half of the 7,700 Americans in China lived in Shanghai (Bulletin No. 4).

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Old Paint Brushes Stay on Job as Bristle Imports Stop

THOSE used paint brushes lying forgotten in America's basements, stiff as boards with last spring's paint and supposedly doomed to the trash can, may now look forward to a trip to the brush laundry and a quick return to work.

The hog bristles of which brushes are made, like rubber and metals, have become vital war materials. They are needed to paint battleships and barracks, to camouflage equipment for Army and Navy. The War Production Board has restricted the use of America's dwindling stock of imported bristles. Not more than 55 per cent of the bristles in new brushes for general use may be from the hog.

Cold, Hunger, and Age Make Hairs Bristle

The long, springy-stiff bristles that have hitherto been most generally used for the best brushes have been imported from Asia. It was the first World War that turned the tides of bristle commerce in this direction. Previously quantities of American bristles had been used, with large imports from Poland and Russia. When war cut off Europe's exports, the United States began to depend on China. Although the finest quality bristles are credited to Russia, especially Siberia, before the outbreak of the present war China was the source of nearly nine-tenths of America's supply of bristles. Even in 1940 and 1941, when most of China's seaports were in Japanese hands, five million pounds of bristles were received yearly from Chinese sources. But since then imports have stopped.

The resilient black bristle prized by expert brush-wielders comes usually from the back of a tough, scrawny, under-nourished pig that roams the forests of China's cold northern and western highlands. Lacking any surplus food to give his pigs, the owner turns them out to root for themselves in a semi-wild state. In China, where meat for a meal is a rarity rather than the rule, the pig has a chance of living longer than he would have in the meat-eating United States. There, and northward to Siberia, the pig lives something of the hard life of his ancestor, the wild boar. Cold weather gives valuable length to his coat. Hard grubbing on roots helps to give each bristle the tiny surface ridges and the forked tips, or "flags," that serve ideally in holding and applying paint.

The chillier, older, and leaner the hog, the longer and livelier are the bristles. This is an axiom with bristle authorities. The climate of the northwestern United States would be cold enough to encourage the growth of long bristles. But a hog would have to be allowed to live possibly seven years before his bristles would attain a length of five or six inches.

Chinese Bristles Gathered from the Ground

Before the first of the Soviet Union's five-year plans for improvement, Russian peasant farmers owned gaunt old hogs that supplied the world with both quantity and quality in bristles. Collective farming introduced scientific feeding of hogs and cross-breeding to improve the strains. With the increase of pork production, more meat for Russians to eat meant a shorter life for the hog. So the Russian pig went to market, but most of his hair—no longer so bristly—stayed home. The methods that improved the main product reduced the value of the by-product.

Because American hogs are valued mainly for their meat, and killed young, their bristles have been of limited importance since the last war. Now, however,

Bulletin No. 2, November 16, 1942 (over).

inquiring whether anyone has dared to offend the spirits by cutting a cucumber, eating wallaby meat, or chewing red sugar cane. If anyone admits guilt openly, the natives believe, the angered spirit is usually appeased and rolls the storm away.

Temperature variations in New Guinea are slight. Along the coast and lowlands rainfall averages about 200 inches a year, the temperature standing almost constantly around 80 degrees. The hottest months in the southeast part of the island are October and November; in the northwest, April and May.

Note: New Guinea is shown on the National Geographic Society's Map of the Theater of War in the Pacific Ocean. A price list of maps may be obtained from the Society's headquarters in Washington, D. C.

For further information on New Guinea, see these articles in the *National Geographic Magazine*: "Treasure Islands of Australasia," June, 1942; and "Unknown New Guinea," March, 1941; and "Into Primeval Papua by Seaplane," September, 1929*; and the following GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS: "Gold and Savages on New Guinea," March 30, 1942; and "Australia Would Continue as New Guinea Guardian," November 7, 1938. (Issues marked by an asterisk are included in the special list of *National Geographic Magazines* available to teachers at 10¢ each in groups of ten.)

Bulletin No. 1, November 16, 1942.



Australian News and Information Bureau

NEW GUINEA RAIN FORESTS BAR THE PASSAGE OF EVERYTHING BUT WATER

The jungle of New Guinea, known as rain forest because it flourishes in abundant rain, is so thick that roads cannot penetrate it; rivers are the only highways. The oil geologist, who must follow streams through the jungle, has set up his surveying instrument in the Sepik River, south of the coastal mountains. An umbrella shields his head from the tropical sun, but he can do little to protect his feet from the discomfort of the watery road he must travel, following native guides. Some of the plants of the rain forest are more adaptable, having attempted to protect themselves from rain in peculiar ways. To funnel off the downpour they have developed leaves with long "drip" tips, or rainspouts. A species of small white flower has been found with a leaf umbrella hoisted over each blossom.

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Mountainous Albania a Reluctant Aid to the Axis

ALBANIA, where armed uprisings against the Italians have been reported, is a little country with a long history. As dwellers in a land about as big as Maryland, the Albanians—the ancient Illyrians—have known for centuries what it means to be invaded. First the Romans, then the Byzantines, Slavs, and Turks, and finally the Italians moved in to rule.

A Rough Corridor into the Balkans

A 200-mile wedge between Yugoslavia and Greece, Albania is a land corridor into the Balkan Peninsula—but with natural obstacles blocking the way. It dominates the narrow water gate between the Adriatic and the Ionian Sea, and is only about 47 miles across the Strait of Otranto from the “heel” of Italy’s “boot.” Brindisi, troop embarkation port in southeastern Italy, is 79 miles from Albania’s port of Valona, and about 105 miles from Albania’s capital city, Tirana. This distance is less than that from New York City to Albany.

Wild and rugged, with some of its mountains more than a mile high, Albania offers only a difficult and uncertain living to its million citizens, most of them farmers and stock-raisers. With primitive methods of agriculture, they cultivate less than 1,300 square miles of the country’s 10,629 square-mile area. Rivers are unreliable, drying up in summer and becoming raging torrents in winter and spring. The region along the Adriatic has been handicapped by the problem of malaria.

Albania has considerable mineral wealth, which, although largely undeveloped, is an important source for certain supplies for the Axis countries. In 1938 Albania ranked sixth among Europe’s producers of oil. A 45-mile pipe line brings oil from inland Petrolia, obviously named for its petroleum deposits, to the port of Valona for shipment. Mines in the mountains of the north were producing copper in 1940 at the rate of 40,000 tons a year.

Americans Helped Modernize Albania

Iron, coal, and salt are also produced, while deposits of asphalt have been worked for centuries. Ores of aluminum are available.

Forests covering more than a third of the country’s area are a valuable source of timber.

For centuries the mountainous interior of Albania could be reached only by horseback. Now all towns of any consequence are linked with roads that compare favorably with those in other Balkan countries, though most of the mountain villages remain inaccessible.

While several air routes are in regular use, chiefly between the capital and ports, the country’s first railroad was not built until after the 1939 occupation by Italians.

Tobacco is one of the chief crops. Corn and olives are also important to Albanian commerce. The olives used to be exported, and olive oil had to be imported, but in 1930 two refineries were set up and thereafter olive oil moved from the import to the export list.

Cotton, first grown there during World War I, is now produced to fill the country’s needs. Most rural people who do not labor over little mountain farms (illustration, next page) make their living by raising cattle, sheep, and goats, selling wool, hides, and dairy products.

Bulletin No. 3, November 16, 1942 (over).

domestic hog bristles are slated to do substitute service for the war's duration. The thousands of farmers who do their own butchering are laying plans to save bristles to add to the pork packers' large supply, and many farm children after school hours may help dry, sort, and tie the bristles into bundles for sale.

The Chinese hog, foraging in the forests, sheds bristles in the warm months as he rubs against the trees. Most of the half pound of back bristles per hog are collected from the ground. They are delivered to village warehouses and shipped to such export centers as Tientsin, Hankow, and Chungking, where they are sorted for quality, color, and length. About one-fourth of them may be two inches or shorter; one-half may run two or three inches. One-tenth, running four inches and over, bring a high market price. Bundling and sterilizing complete preparations for export.

Shoemakers and saddlers are steady customers for the finest imported bristles. Manufacturers of toilet and clothes brushes buy top grades. War uses for bristles include the carding of wool for uniforms and blankets and the painting of production plants, planes, tanks, trucks, ships. Few instruments of war escape the brush. Synthetic bristles as well as hair from the horse, goat, ox, and badger are among available substitutes. "Camel's hair" used in brushes comes from a species of squirrel. "Red sable" treasured by artists is likely to be from the tail of Russia's kolinsky.

Bulletin No. 2, November 16, 1942.



J. Baylor Roberts

THESE LITTLE PIGS WILL GO TO MARKET AS PAINT BRUSHES AS WELL AS PORK

For the past few decades American porkers have been slaughtered for pork too young for their bristles to reach the maximum length for best quality. Few bristles were saved, as the brush industry relied mainly on China and Siberia for its supply. Now that Asia's exports are cut off by war, United States farmers and pork packers will save American hog bristles. More than a sixth of the pork usually raised in this country is corn-fed in Iowa, like the 1,300-pound giant in the photograph, which has been fattened long past the slaughtering age of most hogs. Pigs in States farther north than these, where the weather is colder, will have a better chance of producing the longest bristles.

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Extra Foreign Rights in China Built Colorful Cities

THE United States celebrated Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's birthday last month by submitting a goodwill treaty to embattled China. In an effort to wipe out past attitudes toward China's government, and to treat the Chinese as full-fledged allies, the United States is renouncing extraterritoriality.

This long and tongue-twisting word, applied to Americans in China, meant simply that although in Chinese territory the Americans were outside (extra-) the jurisdiction of Chinese courts. Shanghai was the seat of a United States court before which U. S. citizens and their lawsuits were tried. Until Japan's occupation, foreign troops were allowed to be stationed there, including detachments of the U. S. Marines and U. S. Navy (illustration, cover).

Mandarins Haughtily Segregated Humble Americans in China

American extraterritoriality, once granted by a number of countries, has now been abandoned everywhere except in China, although some special privileges are allowed by Egypt and Morocco.

Only coastal cities were at first opened to aliens in China by reluctant Manchu rulers. Until 1842, only Macao and Canton could give shelter to foreign traders, and the quarter-mile-square compound in Canton was strictly closed to foreign females and firearms! When the raw young United States sent its first boatload of ginseng to exchange for the silks and teas and exotic manufactures of highly developed China, in 1784, a captain was not allowed to unload his cargo until he found a Chinese merchant to act as security. China did not condescend to make a treaty with the United States until 1844.

From the Opium War of 1842, however, Western powers emerged with a treaty declaring five Chinese "treaty ports" open for business with the white foreigners—Shanghai, Canton, Amoy, Foochow, and Ningpo. In 1906 Tsinan, capital of Shantung Province, was voluntarily opened to foreigners; the city even laid out a suburb for them on the site of an old graveyard. In all, by treaty with long-nailed imperial Manchus and later presidential decrees, more than 80 ports were opened to aliens. By 1935 some 36,000 Europeans and Americans were living in China.

When haughty mandarins forced foreign merchants to live in special districts, to protect Chinese property and morals, their policy of exclusiveness had an unforeseen result: it dotted China with miniature foreign cities, flying foreign flags, policed by foreign troops, and governed under foreign laws.

Four Types of Foreign Authority in China

The largest of these, before the Japanese took it over, was the International Settlement at Shanghai, where about half of China's foreign trade was funneled into circulation (illustration, inside cover).

The second largest foreign zone was in Tientsin, where British, French, Japanese, and Italian towns grew up within those countries' respective concessions. The island of Shameen in Canton was the site of foreign colonies in the British and French concessions, where nine nations had consulates. At Amoy, the International Settlement on Kulangsu served eleven different nationalities. Hankow, which just before the war jostled Peiping for fourth place among China's foreign centers, had French and Japanese concessions, while the ex-British concession

Bulletin No. 4, November 16, 1942 (over).

According to Albanian traditions, it is inexcusable to be inhospitable. For long it was considered a disgrace for a man to be without a moustache. In the stories that Albanian mothers told their children, the villain was always a moustacheless man. Some Albanians refrained from cutting their hair during the new moon for fear the hair would turn white.

Like other Moslem lands formerly under Turkish rule, Albania has adopted many Western customs in recent years. Polygamy has been forbidden by law, along with the Moslem veil which once hid all women's faces.

Much of this modernization can be traced to Albanians who have lived for a while in the United States. In 1931 there were 30,000 Albanians working in the New England and Mid-Western States.

Those who returned to their native land with their savings built modern homes, equipped with electricity, steam heat, telephones, and up-to-date plumbing. Their sons played football until the war brought an end to games, and their daughters attended American movies and expected Albanian shops to stock lingerie like that worn by American movie stars.

Note: Albania may be located on the National Society's Map of Europe and the Near East.

For further material on Albania, see "Europe's Newest Kingdom," in the *National Geographic Magazine*, February, 1931*; and these GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS: "Albania Continues in Historic Battlefield Role," January 13, 1941; and "Why Are the Balkans the 'Powder Keg of Europe?'" November 4, 1940.

Bulletin No. 3, November 16, 1942.



Meri La Voy

ON AN ALBANIAN HAY RIDE, THE HAY GETS THE RIDE

The three two-legged haystacks trudging beside the narrow-gauge railroad track are three mountain women bringing to market at Elbasan from their hilly pastures loads of hay, the only thing of which their land produces a surplus. Heaps of hay already on display (left background) are watched over by a woman seated beneath a big umbrella. The mountaineer (right), whose womenfolk make a haystack parade behind him, is driving a donkey laden with bundles of sticks for firewood. Reflecting their centuries under Turkish rule, the men wear fezzes, and the women wear ample head kerchiefs that are reminders of the concealing veil they have only recently discarded. Elbasan, high in the mountains, is Albania's fourth largest town, and eastern terminus of the country's first railway line, which runs from Elbasan to Tirana, the capital, and to Durazzo on the coast.

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Santa Elena Peninsula in Ecuador's Oil Area, New U. S. Base

UNCLE SAM'S site for a defense base in South America, on Ecuador's Santa Elena Peninsula, is in a dry, tropical, lowland stretch of cattle and oil country. The Santa Elena Peninsula, in the province of Guayas near the southern end of Ecuador's coast line, is the South American republic's farthest projection westward into the Pacific Ocean. There the United States base will help in guarding the approaches to the Panama Canal from the west.

Ecuador Supplies Two Bases Protecting Panama Canal

Almost due west of the peninsula's tip, 600 miles off shore, are the Galapagos Islands, where another base site was granted to the United States by Ecuador, in the same agreement. Since islands are less numerous near the Canal on the Pacific side than in the Caribbean, the two Ecuadorian bases are of special importance in its protection.

La Libertad, port town on the north shore of Santa Elena Peninsula, is 785 air miles south and slightly west of the Panama Canal, across the Gulf of Panama.

It is approximately 100 miles by water and 75 miles by rail west of Ecuador's principal port, Guayaquil, a city of 180,000 people located 40 miles inland on the chocolate-brown waters of the Guayas River. Most of Ecuador's seaborne trade to Panama and to the west coast of North America must round the peninsula before turning north. Coastal shipping that does not go up the river to Guayaquil frequently touches at ports on the more convenient peninsula.

The tip of Santa Elena Peninsula is 160 miles south of the Equator. In that short distance Ecuador's coast changes from a forest region of abundant rain to a comparatively dry desert area, with only a scattering of low shrubs.

Indians at Home on Dry Peninsula

The mean annual temperature on the peninsula is about 83 degrees Fahrenheit. The climate is pleasant during the dry months from June to December, but humid and enervating during the first half of the year. Negroes thrive in the moist coastal forests to the north, but Indians prove to be better fitted for life on the dry reaches of the peninsula.

Discovery of oil near Ancon on the south shore of the Santa Elena Peninsula about thirty years ago was followed by the drilling of wells and installation of refineries and pipe lines, bringing industry to a hitherto unproductive region.

This source of petroleum, the only important one in Ecuador, has never produced as much as one per cent of Latin America's vast river of export oil; it cannot be compared to the great output of Venezuela and Mexico. But it has ranked Ecuador as high as sixth among Latin American oil producers. The Santa Elena field has supplied all of Ecuador's needs for gasoline and has had enough left over for export of some crude oil to Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, France, and the United States. The value of oil exports in a recent pre-war year was second only to that of exported cacao beans, the nation's chief commercial product. About a quarter-million acres of the peninsula's land are held by oil companies, many of them British, although at least one German firm held a tract before the war.

La Libertad is the port to which the oil flows from the wells by pipe line, and from which it pours into waiting ships. The oil refinery stands on the coast about a mile west of La Libertad. This is the site of Ecuador's Annapolis.

Bulletin No. 3, November 16, 1942 (over).

was a special administrative area. Some 18 or 20 cities showed traces of this official segregation of foreigners.

There were four types of foreign authority over settlements of aliens in China. Hong Kong was ceded outright to Great Britain, and Macao to Portugal. Over all other areas, however, China retained certain rights of ownership. But in large leased territories, such as French-leased Kwangchow and the British-leased New Territories adjoining Hong Kong, China agreed to refrain from exercising any rights for the duration of the lease.

In a concession, the land was leased in perpetuity to a foreign government whose consul was in control. Other governments obtained space from the consul; the U. S. Consulate at Hankow, for instance, was in the French Concession.

Settlements, as distinguished from concessions, were not leased. China merely reserved the settlement zone for foreigners, but title to the land remained Chinese. Administration of these alien towns varied widely, from Shanghai's International Settlement, which foreign authorities controlled completely, to Yunnan-fu, where residents in the foreign area had practically no control.

Note: China is shown on the National Geographic Society's Map of the Theater of War in the Pacific Ocean.

For further information see "1940 Paradox in Hong Kong," in the *National Geographic Magazine*, April, 1940*; and "Changing Shanghai," October, 1937*. See also these GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS: "Overloaded Hong Kong Was Vulnerable to Siege," January 12, 1942; and "Shanghai Has Largest of U. S. Colonies in China," November 13, 1939.

Bulletin No. 4, November 16, 1942.



Kobza

A CHINATOWN WITHIN A BRITISH TOWN IN CHINA—THAT WAS HONG KONG

Many of the foreign settlements in China had numerous Chinese inhabitants, enjoying the electric lights, telephone, surfaced streets, and police protection. In Canton and Peiping, however, no Chinese except servants were allowed to live in the foreign quarter, and in most of the concessions Chinese were barred from owning property. In Hong Kong there was a large proportion of Chinese residents, for whom these outdoor beauty parlors were maintained. In addition to the line of hairdressers along the sidewalk, other operators with their chairs in the street were plucking eyebrows, painting faces, and shaving children's heads. Just before its capture by the Japanese, Hong Kong was jammed with Chinese refugees as well as residents.

Salt, sulphur, and pitch are worked near the peninsula's tip. The salt works are a monopoly of the Ecuadorian government.

One of the more important of the small coastal settlements of the Santa Elena Peninsula is Salinas, a resort town named for the salt works in its vicinity. About three miles west of La Libertad on Santa Elena Bay, it is the port of shipment for the salt pits. The dry, healthful climate attracts visitors to Salinas, many arriving by small coastwise steamers or the railroad that links the peninsula with Guayaquil. Among the few local industries which visitors may patronize is the making of "Panama" hats (illustration, below).

A factor in the international importance of the Santa Elena Peninsula is its use as a cable station. Four marine cables reach land near Punta Chipipi.

Note: Ecuador is shown on the National Geographic Society's Map of South America. For further information on Ecuador, see "From Sea to Clouds in Ecuador," in the *National Geographic Magazine*, December, 1941*; "Mrs. Robinson Crusoe in Ecuador," February, 1934*; and "Volcanoes of Ecuador," January, 1929. See also these GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS: "Strategic Materials from Latin America Aid U. S. War Economy," May 18, 1942; and "More Sky-Scaling at Mount Chimborazo," February 8, 1937.

Bulletin No. 5, November 16, 1942.



A. F. Tschiffely

ECUADOR WINS HATS-OFF FOR ITS HATS

The world's finest "Panama" hats are acknowledged to come from Ecuador. Natives gather leaves of the *toquilla* palm, scrape the fibers clean, dip them into boiling water, and bleach them in the sun. Then they are woven into hats by women and children, working in the cool of the morning and evening. The best hats may bring as much as \$50, since they take weeks to make. Many are peddled in the streets of Ecuador, where everyone wears them (above). They are left unfinished and the buyer trims off the grassy fringe. While the finest come from Jipijapa and Montecristi to the north, many are woven on the Santa Elena Peninsula, where souvenir-hunting U. S. troops may find them in abundance.

